

Produced For Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

Guardian East

Volume 9, Issue 7

September 10, 2003



**Pilgrim's Progress:
KFOR Soldiers Journey
to Letnice Festival**

Page 10

Message to the troops



By Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr.

You're doing great! As I travel around the area of responsibility and as visitors come to me after visiting with you, I have found everything you are doing has been outstanding. Soldiers know their jobs, NCOs are taking charge and enforcing standards, and officers are supervising and providing proper guidance and direction. Your professionalism and attitude are to be commended. From the squad leader to the senior NCO, I have seen leadership skills that exemplify professional soldiers. We have the best NCOs in the Army and it is evident in your performance. Thanks to all of you for your hard work. I expect you to maintain the high standards you have set, not only for your safety but for the safety of the citizens of Kosovo as well.

As KFOR we represent the people and governments of our homeland. How we handle ourselves in sector, on patrols, and interacting with civilians directly impacts how our respective countries are perceived. The word I am getting from the local

citizens is you are doing the right things. You are approachable, friendly and you show you care for those we are here to support. We are here to provide a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Kosovo. Therefore, professionalism and high standards are a must. I know the NCOs will continue to enforce the standards and demonstrate strong leadership skills both in the field and at the base camps.

One thing we really must ensure is handled effectively is the first reports. Make every effort to report accurate information the first time. The more accurate the information that is reported, the better and faster senior leaders can make decisions on handling operations in sector. It is also essential to report information in a timely manner. Do not wait three hours before reporting information to higher. The faster information is sent up the faster a situation can be resolved or kept under control. Two very important questions to keep in mind at all times are: "Who else needs to know?" and "What have I forgotten to ask?"

Greece, Poland, Ukraine,



Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr.

Lithuania and the United States have sent their best soldiers to do this important mission. It is obvious as you go about your duties that you take pride in what you do. I am confident that Multi-National Brigade (East) will continue to excel and improve. We are making progress and improvements every day. You, by your actions on a daily basis, make my job easier. I am proud of your accomplishments, I am proud of your dedication but, most of all, I am proud to be your commander.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

COVER: Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Arentzen carries with pride the American flag Aug. 15 in Letnice, Kosovo as she participates in the festival and pilgrimage that occurs in concert with the Feast of the Assumption, a Roman Catholic religious holiday. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Cole, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)

See Page 10 for the story

Guardian East

COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)
Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E)
AND COMMANDER, 203RD MPAD
Maj. Hillary A. Luton

PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER
Maj. Douglas A. Harding

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 203RD MPAD
Capt. Lora L. Neal

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM OIC
Capt. Susan A. Toomay

DETACHMENT SERGEANT
1st Sgt. Robert Heberling

PHOTO EDITOR AND PRINT NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

MEDIA OPERATIONS AND
BROADCAST NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Jessica A. Brooks

BROADCAST JOURNALISTS
Staff Sgt. Nova L. Leitch
Cpl. Stephen A. Wylie

WEBMASTER AND PRINT JOURNALIST
Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

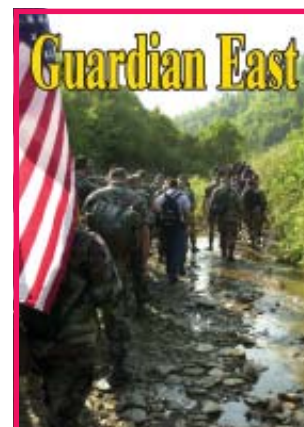
PRINT JOURNALISTS
Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson
Sgt. Heidi Schaap

LAYOUT EDITOR AND
PRINT JOURNALIST
Spec. Christina E. Witten

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST
Pfc. Anaiddy G. Claudio

About Guardian East

Guardian East is an official publication of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) produced to provide command information to service members in MNB(E). Guardian East is produced by the 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Army Reserve, Wichita, Kan. Contents of Guardian East are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 28th Infantry Division. Guardian East is published bi-monthly using offset press by the MNB(E) Public Affairs Office, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Printed circulation is 3,000.



Dogs Bone-up on Training - U.S. and Norwegian dog handlers participate in a unique training opportunity - **Page 4**

Size Doesn't Matter - 2-112th and Task Force Med Falcon are a big help in a little village - **Page 6**

Clearing the Path - 337th Engineer Battalion has remote capabilities - **Page 8**

Providing Sanctuary - 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) provides a safe and secure environment in Ferizaj - **Page 9**

Pilgrim's Progress - KFOR soldiers participate in a festival and pilgrimage in Letnice - **Page 10**



Lt. Col. Robert Erlach, a dentist with Task Force Medical Falcon, pulls the tooth of a young patient at a Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program in Samakovo Aug. 17. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

See Page 6 for the story

Reserve Affairs Secretary Holds Town Hall Meeting - Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall visits Camp Bondsteel to speak with U.S. soldiers - **Page 12**

"We Love our Troops!" - Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez visits MNB(E) soldiers - **Page 12**

Non-Lethal Combatives Training: Charlie Company, 1-112th Military Police - Photo page by Combat Cameraman Spc. John Jones - **Page 14**

The Odd Couple - The only married U.S. soldier duo on Camp Bondsteel - **Page 15**

From Time to Time - 1965-2002 Pennsylvania Graduates Unite in Kosovo - **Page 16**

Picking up the Slack - Austrians Patrol MNB(E) - **Page 18**

Vehicle Safety - Watch Your Speed - **Page 20**

Soul Food - A message from Chaplain (Capt.) Scot McCosh, Task Force Associator Chaplain - **Page 21**

News Around the Globe - California Soldier Serves Above and Beyond - **Page 22**

News Around the Globe - Smelling Cut Grass: What a gas - **Page 22**

Soldier on the Street - If you could change one thing about camp, what would it be? - **Page 23**



Ayke, a U.S. patrol and narcotics search dog, practices an attack move on Spc. Lenn Walker during a U.S. and Norwegian training exercise Aug. 11. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.

See Page 4 for the story



Rep. Loretta Sanchez waves one last goodbye to Multi-National Brigade (East) as she departs. Photo by Spc. Danielle Tibbetts, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)

See Page 12 for the story

Dogs *Bone-up* on Training

Story and photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

The thunderous roar of barking dogs was frequent as U.S. and Norwegian dog handlers spent a sweltering afternoon taking part in a unique training opportunity Aug. 11.

The 175th Military Police Battalion dog handlers and the Norwegian Dog Section coordinated a joint training exercise that provided both nationalities with a learning experience.

"A lot of people think their method is the only way to train a dog," explained Spc. Lenn Walker, a dog handler with the 175th, "but when you see another group utilizing different methods, you can always learn something. You take a little bit from each person, and your dog just becomes more well-rounded."

The training began with a building search for planted explosives. The first dog up for the challenge was Sonja, a U.S. patrol and explosives search dog. Sonja quickly scanned the shelves in the building as Staff Sgt. David A. Catchings, the 175th kennel master, guided Sonja through the search.

"I really like the speed and the energy level of especially one of the dogs."

1st Lt. Per-Ivar Marthinsen

"I really like the speed and the energy level of especially one of [the 175th's] dogs," 1st Lt. Per-Ivar Marthinsen, a Norwegian dog handler, explained, referring to Sonja.

In contrast, Odin, a Norwegian explosives search dog,



Odin slowly backs away from explosives he located Aug. 11. His extreme care in such a situation could one day save his life, as well as his Norwegian dog handler's.



Staff Sgt. David A. Catchings guides Sonja through a search for explosives Aug. 11.

slowly and meticulously investigated each section of the building as directed by Sgt. Tom Vollen, a Norwegian dog handler.

When an odor of explosives was sensed, Odin's performance was a sight to see judging by the U.S. dog handlers' responses. As Odin stared straight at the source of the odor, he carefully stepped backward, one foot at a time, gently placing each paw on the floor before picking up the next. When he arrived at a safe distance, Odin gently sat down, still staring straight at the source. Until Vollen rewarded him for a job well done, he sat perfectly still.



Oscar, a Norwegian patrol and weapons search dog, practices an apprehension and detention technique on Sgt. Kim Thyrum, a Norwegian Dog Section dog handler, Aug. 11.

looking and watching how other people train dogs,” Catchings explained. “The more people you learn from, the bigger your bag of tricks becomes. In my time of training dogs, I have never seen some of the detector work that these guys do, and I plan to implement their training techniques for our detection training.”

“I learned some interesting obedience techniques,” Walker stated, “but we hadn’t thought about employing them until we actually saw somebody else doing them.”

The Norwegian dog handlers reciprocated their U.S. counterpart’s decision.

“The Americans are very fast in the search,” Cpl. Knut Stenbak, a Norwegian dog handler, explained. “I’ll try to increase the speed in the search because I think it’s possible to search faster.”

The experience gave the dog handlers an idea of where their dogs stand when compared to dogs trained to perform similar tasks.

“It gives us an idea of what our dogs’ strengths and weaknesses are compared to another organization’s dogs,” Walker stated. “Hopefully, we can improve on our weaknesses and help them improve on their weaknesses.”

The training experience was so helpful the 175th dog handlers and the Norwegian dog handlers are already coordinating a follow-up training exercise at the Norwegian training site.

“It gives us an idea of what our dogs’ strengths and weaknesses are compared to another organization’s dogs. Hopefully, we can improve on our weaknesses and help them improve on their weaknesses.”

Spc. Lenn Walker

Catchings said he was impressed by the Norwegian dogs’ focus.

“They focused on the response. Our dogs focus on us, waiting for us to pay them for the response. It’s something I’ve seen in the past, but today was able to ask them how they trained it.”

During patrols and searches, it’s important the dogs are prepared to correctly respond if a situation becomes hostile. Following the explosives search, the dogs practiced some apprehension and detention techniques.

“I learned a lot of training on biting” techniques, Marthinsen explained, “and I also learned a little bit of how [Americans] work with their dogs.”

At the end of the day, both the U.S. and Norwegian dog handlers had gained some knowledge they will put to good use.

“You learn how to train dogs by



Dux, a U.S. patrol and explosives search dog, practices an apprehension and detention technique on Sgt. Jeremy Sparks, a 175th Military Police Battalion dog handler, Aug. 11.

Size Doesn't Matter:

2-112th, TFMF Big Help in Little Village

Story and photos by
Sgt. Heidi Schaap

SAMAKOVO, Kosovo – The 2-112th Infantry Battalion, in conjunction with Task Force Medical Falcon and the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, held a Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program Aug. 17 in the remote village of Samakovo in the Vitina Municipality.

This was the first MEDCAP since Task Force Paxton, commanded by Lt. Col. Louis Fazekas, replaced the 2-63 Armor Battalion in July.

"We chose Samakovo because...the KFOR presence in the smaller towns is sometimes lacking," said Capt. Brian Ewing, Paxton's information operations officer. "So we want to show that size doesn't matter – big town, small town – we're here to



1st Lt. Robert Miller, a critical care nurse for Task Force Medical Falcon, looks at a patient's eyes at a medical civilian assistance program in Samakovo Aug. 17.



Capt. Wendy Linderborg, an Intensive Care Unit nurse for Task Force Medical Falcon, comforts a little patient as he takes his medicine at a medical civilian assistance program in Samakovo Aug. 17.

complete our mission."

According to Capt. Steven Sanson, medical operations officer for the 2-112th, the target was designated because of its remoteness and need.

"There are no clinics here," Sanson explained. "The roads are very bad. We just wanted to make sure we could visit one last time before snow prevents anyone from getting in and out.

"Besides that," he added, "we talked to the mayor and he said it would be greatly appreciated."

MEDCAPs and DENTCAPs don't just provide immediate and necessary medical care for the residents here, Sanson said, but are also important so residents will develop relationships with local caregivers.

"Long after KFOR is gone,

“It was our first MEDCAP and it was well received. It was a success.”

Capt. Steven Sanson

these are the people that will be in charge of their healthcare,” Sanson said, motioning toward the Vitina Health House employees who worked at the MEDCAP.

He added that just one year ago, these projects were completely run and staffed by KFOR hospital employees, but now local doctors play an important part.

“It’s really our role to be more of an observer now,” Sanson said. “The doctors from Vitina have to take the lead.”

Sgt. Nick Funk, a civil affairs specialist with the 415th, was on the team of soldiers who scouted out the village and told its residents about the MEDCAP. He said although KFOR is in the process of transferring their medical care to civilians, the day’s project was still important.

“They need to know that we’re willing to help them because they might not be able to get this kind of care elsewhere,” Funk explained. “Right now, it may be too far to go or they can’t afford it.”

Sanson said over 80 patients were cared for by Paxton and TFMF’s team of dedicated soldiers, which accounts for almost half of the village’s population.

“It was our first MEDCAP and it was well received ...in the village,” Sanson concluded. “It was a success.”



Maj. Diego (Doc) Gonzalez, a flight surgeon with Task Force Aviation, examines a patient with the help of interpreter Hamide Lahaj at a medical civilian assistance program in Samakovo Aug. 17.



1st Lt. Robert Miller, a critical care nurse with Task Force Medical Falcon, looks at a patient's x-ray at a medical civilian assistance program in Samakovo Aug. 17.



Sgt. Rick Schneider and a MNB(E) interpreter talk to a patient's mother at a Medical Civilian Assistance Program in Samakovo Aug. 17.

Clearing the Path

Engineers with Remote Capabilities

Story and photos by
Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo — The combat engineers of Bravo Company, 337th Engineer Battalion received training on anti-personnel mine clearing equipment Aug. 10.

The equipment utilizes a skid-steer chassis modified with remote-controlled robotics and a chain flailing head. This is used to clear a path in an anti-personnel minefield for the extraction of people or equipment, according to Guy Piskulic, a senior technical specialist for Sigma Tech Inc. and class instructor.

"It's an excellent tool for keeping soldiers out of harm's way," said Piskulic.

Piskulic also said Camp Monteith is home to three of the Army's mini-flails.

The soldiers performed preventative maintenance checks and services and operated the remote-controlled mini-flail during the training event.

There are five major components soldiers learned before placing the mini-flail into operation. They include a hand held controller, platform, flail head assembly, tool kit, and trailer.

Soldiers operated the mini-flail in the motor pool, utilizing the equipment's 100-300 meter remote control



Spc. Matthew J. Courson removes the mini-flail's air filter during a maintenance class at Camp Monteith Aug. 10.

"It's an excellent tool for keeping soldiers out of harms way."

Guy Piskulic



Sgt. Anthony P. Weber, a combat engineer with Bravo Company, 337th Engineer Battalion, watches intently during a maintenance class on the mini-flail Aug. 10.

range. Even with its range capabilities, Piskulic said the optimum range for operation of the unit is less than 300 meters. And the equipment should be operated from an approved shelter depending upon the munitions to be cleared.

Training day on the equipment was not the first time these troops were able to get "hands-on" with the mini-flail.

"We're going to be the ones who have to run the mini-flail to extract someone from a minefield (should it be necessary)," said Spc. Matthew J. Courson, Bravo Company combat engineer and Dubois, Pa., native.

"We got some training on (the mini-flail) in Fort Polk, La., but today was more in depth on the maintenance side," Courson added.

One drawback to the mini-flail, according to Piskulic, is neglect. If the equipment sits in the motor pool it could develop mechanical problems. Piskulic recommended weekly use of the equipment and preventive maintenance in order to identify systemic failures. This will ensure soldiers know the capabilities of the machine and maintain realistic expectations for its use.

Staff Sgt. Michael D. Bowley, Bravo Company squad leader, of Brookville, Pa., said the problem of neglect would not be one that his engineers would be facing while deployed to Kosovo.

"We plan to get (the mini-flails) off the trailer and move them around," emphasized Bowley.

There will soon be a new version of the mini-flail available. The new unit will include wire breaching capabilities and a non-lethal weapons system to compliment the flail-head assembly.

The mini-flail is another item in the peacekeeper's bag of tools, and another way Task Force Falcon is keeping its soldiers safe while at the same time keeping them on the leading edge of technology.

Providing Sanctuary

501st Mechanized Battalion in Ferizaj

Story and photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

FERIZAJ, Kosovo – City streets and sidewalks are electric with the energy of people carrying out their daily activities. Amidst the commotion, 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) soldiers are a common sight as they conduct presence operations at various locations.

One of these locations is Saint Ouros Church. Outside of the city, in Varo, the Church of Profet Ilias and its cemetery are also watched. Daily, soldiers provide their presence at these churches and thus offer a safe and secure environment for those who choose to worship there.

“Sometimes, when [civilians] pass by, they say ‘hello’ and ‘thank you’ to the Greek soldiers.”

1st Lt. Anestis Anestis



Staff Sgt. Xenophon Tzinelis, a 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) soldier, stands guard at Saint Ouros Church outside Ferizaj Aug. 9.



Pvt. Pascalis Konstantinidis, a 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) soldier, stands watch at Saint Ouros church in Ferizaj Aug. 9.

The presence of the 501st is one that is appreciated by residents and passersby, and it's not uncommon for a Greek soldier to receive a message of gratitude.

“Sometimes, when [civilians] pass by, they say ‘hello’ and ‘thank you’ to the Greek soldiers,” stated 1st Lt. Anestis Anestis, a 501st soldier. “I think being here is helping a lot.”

Although the presence of the 501st is still considered necessary, one Greek soldier was pleased to announce there have been no problems with anyone attempting to vandalize or destroy the churches during his guard shifts.

“There are no problems,” explained Master Sgt. Kerenkiotis Filippas, a 501st soldier. “(Everyone is) friendly to the Greek soldiers.”

This is a great example of the positive changes that have been made in this region in the past four years of KFOR's presence.

Pilgrim's Progress:



Italian KFOR soldiers begin the treacherous hill climb during the pilgrimage to Letnice Aug. 15. Photo by Staff Sgt. Silas Toney, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)

Story by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

LETNICE, Kosovo — More than 800 KFOR soldiers, including almost 300 Americans, hiked, climbed, huffed and puffed their way through five kilometers of rough terrain under a scorching sun Aug. 15 on a pilgrimage to the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

The focal point of the village, nestled in a deep green valley, is a stark white Catholic church, built in 1866. The site, however, has been considered a holy place since the 14th century. The church was not damaged during the war in the late 1990's— it is a place respected by both ethnic Serbs and Albanians because of the unique treasure housed within it - an icon of the "Black Madonna" centered on the altar instead of a crucifix.

"This pilgrimage is an opportunity to walk with other peacekeepers who share the same hopes and dreams as ourselves," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bert Kozen, who helped organize Multi-National Brigade (East)'s participation in the event. "We also journey with people from all over Kosovo who hope for a peaceful future."

"Black Madonna" is used to describe the statue of Mary and the baby Jesus because of the Semitic skin tone used - dark brown or olive skin tone, brown eyes and black or brown hair. It was not until after the Renaissance that these early images were perceived as pagan, and artists began to represent the holy family with pale white skin, blue eyes and light hair.

The icon at Letnice is one of three famous "Black Madonnas." It is especially well known because Mother Teresa of Calcutta, born in Skopje, received her calling to be a missionary while praying to Mary in front of the icon at the Feast of the Assumption in 1928. She was only 17 years old.



Every August, a festival and pilgrimage occurs in concert with the Feast of the Assumption, a Roman Catholic religious holiday commemorating the ascension of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. On the morning of Aug. 15, KFOR soldiers participated in a procession into the village of Letnice, Kosovo. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

KFOR Soldiers Journey to Letnice Festival



Almost 800 KFOR soldiers make their final descent into the village of Letnice on the pilgrimage which accompanied the Feast of the Assumption Aug. 15. Photo by Capt. Joel Smith, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Every August, a festival and pilgrimage occurs in concert with the Feast of the Assumption, a Roman Catholic religious holiday commemorating the ascension of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. On the morning of Aug. 15 KFOR soldiers participated in a procession into the village of Letnice, Kosovo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Silas Toney, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)



The Feast itself is a culmination of a nine-day pilgrimage to the church and, according to Pope Pius XII, a celebration of when the Virgin Mary, at the end of her life on earth, was taken body and soul into heaven. More than 10,000 people participated in the nine-day pilgrimage this year, 5,000 of them on Aug. 14, 15, and 16.

"The hike made me realize that while we only walked five kilometers, people in past generations may have walked for days to attend the festival," said Combat Photographer Staff Sgt. Jonathan Cole, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera). "And that made me realize the importance of the festival and the impact it has on the people of Kosovo."

KFOR soldiers from more than 10 countries were able to make their final descent into the village singing "Ave Maria" in Latin and French, and celebrate an outdoor Mass with Kosovar Catholics of many ethnicities.

"This is a big day for us," said Mauricio Gala, an Italian Alpine soldier who attended. "In Italy, today is a holiday, too, because we are celebrating the Virgin Mother."

Not only Catholics attended the

Aug. 15 faithfuls from Kosovo and other parts of the Balkans assembled in the village of Letnica, Kosovo to pay honor to the Black Madonna (statue) during the Feast of the Assumption, which is a Roman Catholic religious holiday commemorating the ascension of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. Photo by Staff Sgt. Silas Toney, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)



festival – many soldiers made the pilgrimage to the site because of its historical and cultural significance.

"The Festival of the Black Madonna, although primarily a Catholic celebration, draws people of Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic faith as well as those of Albanian, Serb, Macedonian, Croat, Roma and other ethnic groups," Kozen said. "To be a part of this event where so many differences are put aside, if but for the days of the festival, speaks of hope for a more lasting peace and certainly promotes a safe and secure environment."

The day concluded with a large barbecue and time for soldiers to relax together in the shade or shop at the kiosks in the village.

"I think our participation in the festival was important because it gave us an opportunity to interact with the people of this land through an event that transcends the differences, difficulties and conflicts that are often associated with Kosovo," Kozen concluded. "I am grateful that MNB(E) and KFOR could be a part of it and I believe it will be one of our fondest memories of this deployment."

Reserve Affairs Secretary Holds Town Hall Meeting



Story and photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall visited Camp Bondsteel Aug. 19 to speak with U.S. soldiers about Reserve and National Guard issues.

After taking a riding tour of the camp, Hall met with about 120 soldiers to answer their questions in a town hall meeting at the North Chapel.

“I can’t change the whole Army, but I hope I *can* make life a little easier for Reserve component soldiers.”

Thomas Hall

“I don’t tell the Army what to do,” Hall said. “If you have a problem with the Army, then you need to talk to your general. But if there’s some...legislation that I’ve passed that’s making things hard on you and I can change it, please tell me.”

He answered questions regarding mobilizations, increased commis-

sary usage, Tricare benefits, education, flexibility in unit training assemblies, changes in pay status and how deployments affect civilian jobs back home.

Hall said he would take note of the soldiers’ concerns and present them to the secretary of defense in the future.

“I can’t change the whole Army,” Hall explained, “but I hope I *can* make life a little easier for Reserve component soldiers.”

As the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, Hall serves as the principal staff assistant to the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, and the secretary and deputy secretary of defense. He is responsible for the overall supervision of all reserve component affairs in the Department of Defense.

Appointed to his position in October 2002, Hall has an extensive background in Navy and Reserve issues. He formerly served as the director of Naval Reserve, retiring from active duty in 1996 as a rear admiral. After his military career he became the chief operating officer and executive director of the Naval Reserve Association.

“We

Story by Spc. Christina E. Witten

MNB(E), Kosovo – “Write your congressman!” is the routine advice given to American citizens who have a grievance with the government. But every so often, your congressman or congresswoman comes to you.

For California-resident soldiers in MNB(E), Aug. 21 was their opportunity to meet and voice concerns with Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez from California’s 47th Congressional District.

Shortly after arriving at Camp Bondsteel, Sanchez met with select California soldiers and Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., MNB(E) commanding general, for a question and answer session. Among the topics addressed were concerns about civilian employment, promotions, redeployment, and deployment duration.

Rep. Loretta Sanchez shares a conversation with a soldier Aug. 21. Photo by Spc. Danielle Tibbetts, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)



Love our Troops!”

“It’s a wonderful experience to have your representative come here and visit you.”

Master Sgt. Marcos Montes

Beck explained, “It gives them a chance to air their concerns with their local representative. It’s a great opportunity for them. She’s a good morale lifter for everybody.”

Following the conference, Sanchez dined with soldiers at the South Town Dining Facility, then met with troops at Camp Monteith.

“It’s a wonderful experience to have your representative come here and visit you,” stated Master Sgt. Marcos Montes, operations non-commissioned officer for Task Force Med Falcon. “It definitely helped. There were some topics that were brought up that she was able to answer. When your representative visits you, it obviously shows that



they’re concerned about your well-being. It definitely was a morale booster for myself and the people who were there also.”

Sanchez is the ranking woman of the House Armed Services Committee and the third ranking Democrat on the Select Committee for Homeland Security. As such, visiting MNB(E) was a chance for her to better understand America’s role in Kosovo and other

**Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck,
Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and
Lt. Col. Charles Dewire
tour through South Town
Aug. 21. Photo by Spc.
Christina E. Witten.**

deployments around the world.

“I was anxious to hear from the troops,” Sanchez stated, “to see what’s going on and what we should be taking care of. In September or October, we’ll reconvene as a congress and we’ll probably have some hearings in the House Armed Services Committee on strength in the number of troops in our services. We’re really taxed by the Iraq situation, and our Reservists and our Guard are really feeling it. I’m here to try to figure out what’s going on and what we need to do so I can convince my colleagues of what the plan should be.”

Sanchez enjoyed her visit with the troops and declared her pride in America’s armed forces by saying, “It’s so exciting to come and be with them for the day. We love our troops. All of our men and women in uniform do a great job for us.”



“I was anxious to hear from the troops...It’s so exciting to come and be with them for the day. We love our troops. All of our men and women in uniform do a great job for us.”

Rep. Loretta Sanchez

Non-Lethal Combatives Training

Charlie Company, 1-112th Infantry Photos by Spc. John Jones, 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera.)



The Odd Couple

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

Most of the soldiers deployed to Camp Bondsteel will stay with the same roommates for six months. However, there are two soldiers who have vowed to stay roommates for the rest of their lives.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Zohner, material office non-commissioned officer-in-charge and Staff Sgt. Diane Zohner, Standard Army Maintenance System operator, both of the Forward Logistic Element, 28th Division Support Command, plan on doing just that.

This Reading, Pa., couple is indeed an odd couple in that they are currently the only married U.S. soldier duo on camp. "I am very lucky that we can be around each other," said Diane.

Some other married soldiers on Camp Bondsteel have expressed envy about how lucky the Zohners are to be with each other during their deployment. But the Zohners see it in a different light.

"Even though we are with each other, our kids are without either of us. This is a problem most other married soldiers here don't have," said Donald.

Diane offers advice to friends and co-workers, which has proven to help her family grow closer while being miles apart.

"Keep writing letters to those you love and miss. Tell them 'I love you' every chance you have," Diane urges.

The Zohners do more than just talk about unity in a marriage and family. They show their unity by being inseparable in many ways. They share the same cubicle at work, which can make it somewhat confusing when someone comes in and asks for "Sergeant Zohner." They eat, work out and attend chapel together.

"If you see one of us, the other is probably not far away," Diane affirmed.

"He's my best friend," Diane continued. Donald and Diane both emphasized this "additional duty" in their relationship. They are friends that "work around and through problems"



Staff Sgt. Diane Zohner and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Zohner, both deployed at Camp Bondsteel, spend a few moments alone at the South Chapel talking about their day.

always seeking to lend a hand when the other is in need.

This lending a hand is done carefully when out in public. The only time they actually hold hands in public is when they attend chapel services. This self-imposed restriction is important to them for several reasons; to follow Army regulations (when in uniform), to keep their professional lives separate from their personal, and also to not make other married soldiers miss their spouses more than they already do.

While having each other is

important and a definite plus for the Zohners, they are both very dedicated and committed to the mission that lies before them and all of Multi-National Brigade (East).

It is evident in visiting with the Zohners they have a genuine love for each other, their family, their country, and a commitment to helping the people of Kosovo live a peaceful and productive life. In this regard, the Zohners are not an odd couple to Camp Bondsteel but a part of the cohesive and unified force dedicated to the same.

From Time to Time

Story by Spc. Christina E. Witten

MNB(E), Kosovo – High school is a memorable phase in most any American's life. Young minds are filled with excitement and anticipation as they are promoted from adolescence to adulthood. After commencement, graduates go their separate ways, pursuing college, careers, and families. For five Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, Pa., graduates, their chosen pursuit of the Army has brought them together as peacekeepers in Kosovo.

"This task force is taken from a large part of Pennsylvania, and 25 different states are represented within this task force," explained Maj. Edward T. Hartman, Multi-National Brigade (East) Liaison Officer at KFOR Headquarters, "and it's pretty unique that we have five decades of McDevitt graduates."

The story of these graduates begins in 1965. A turbulent time in American history, this year was marked by the quest for racial equality, the assassination of Malcolm X just two years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the war in Vietnam.

That year, Maj. Richard Buffington, 28th Infantry Division Support Command, Material Manage-



From left to right: Maj. Richard Buffington, Spc. Timothy Paul Clark, Staff Sgt. William Yarnell, Maj. Edward T. Hartman, and Maj. Mary Dougherty at Camp Bondsteel Aug. 16.

ment Center Supply Support Activity accountable officer, graduated from Bishop McDevitt and soon after, started college and joined the Navy Reserve. He later transferred to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, and his position there has brought him to Kosovo. As a civilian, Buffington is a computer specialist for the Department of Defense.

Buffington recalled his time at Bishop McDevitt positively as a time of

learning good study skills, discipline and morality. He remembered one nun there giving him a vital piece of advice: "You can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it."

"I never forgot that," Buffington stated. The nun's advice guided him through life's struggles and helped him to become the first in his family to acquire a college degree.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were a complex time for the U.S. with the continuing Vietnam conflict, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, Neil Armstrong's "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," the Munich Olympics' terrorist attack, the oil embargo of 1973, and the impeachment of President Richard M. Nixon.

By 1975, Maj. Mary Dougherty, HHC Deputy Intelligence Officer, took to the Bishop McDevitt commencement stage. Dougherty went on to graduate from the University of Maryland. As a civilian, she is an external affairs specialist with the Social Security Administration's headquarters in Baltimore.

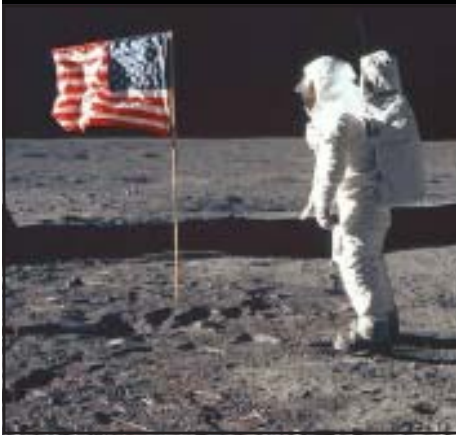
As Dougherty remembered her time at Bishop McDevitt, she recalled being "taught basic values of honesty, integrity and ethics, which are Army values that we follow today. We were

Ronald Martin, Robert Patterson, and Mark Martin stage a sit-down strike after being refused service at an F.W. Woolworth luncheon counter, Greensboro, N.C. 1960. Photo courtesy of New York World-Telegram & Sun Photograph Collection.



1965-2002 *Pennsylvania* Graduates Unite in Kosovo

Astronaut Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., Lunar Module Pilot of the First Lunar Landing Mission, Poses for a Photograph beside the Deployed United States Flag during an Apollo 11 Extravehicular Activity (EVA) on the Lunar Surface July 20, 1969. Photo courtesy of National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



given a good solid basis for those at our high school."

The second half of the 1970s went a bit smoother than the first, but the 1980s brought the Moscow Olympics boycott and assassination attempts on both President Ronald W. Reagan and Pope John Paul II. In 1983 NASA's space shuttles rocketed the first American woman, Dr. Sally Ride, into space as the Cold War was rocketed into a battle of words.

That year, Hartman finished up his senior year of high school and joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

"My father was in the military," Hartman recalled, "and when I joined, it was in the early 1980s, and Reagan was becoming President, so I did it out of patriotism."

Hartman also had educational aspirations, and in 1987, he graduated with his bachelor's degree, soon after receiving his commission. As a civilian, he works for Tecnomtix-Unicam as the

director of strategic alliances and channel sales.

Hartman recalled, "The military as well as Bishop McDevitt both foster a sense of excellence, a desire to achieve, and a sense of self-sacrifice or service. I think the military's a good opportunity for people to give something back."

The late 1980s and early 1990s were a time of change for the world with the fall of the Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall. American troops were sent to Panama to defeat the regime of Gen. Manuel Noriega and to the Middle East to fight along side their foreign allies to free Kuwait.

In 1993, Staff Sgt. William Yarnell, 28th Infantry Division watch non-commissioned officer, graduated from Bishop McDevitt. Earlier that year, Yarnell enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He went on to attain a bachelor's in electrical engineering technology. As a civilian, Yarnell is a senior systems engineer with Pitney Bowes.

Yarnell remembers Bishop McDevitt's "focus on morality. They focus on discipline, uniform standards, grooming standards, and I think those different values coincide with the Army values."

The mid to late 1990s was a relatively calm time in American

history. The murder trial of O.J. Simpson and the Y2K scare were the highlights of the news circuit. But early into the 21st century, tragedy struck American soil when four U.S. planes were hijacked by terrorists, resulting in the collapse of the World Trade Center and serious damage to the Pentagon structure. In a matter of hours, more than 3,000 people had died. Since then, America's focus has been to protect freedom and stop terrorism, bringing about military conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the midst of all this commotion, Spc. Timothy Paul Clark, Charlie Company, 1-111th Infantry, armorer and supply clerk, graduated from Bishop McDevitt and soon after joined the Army. As a civilian, Clark is a swing manager at McDonalds.

Clark remembers his high school experience as "pretty demanding." There were "a lot of deadlines, which, for the most part, is the same in the Army. The teachers are looking for the best for you. You build a bond of friendship with everyone in the school, and the Army is the same way."

Bishop McDevitt helped raise five of America's finest.

"The school has really been supportive," Clark explained. "My high school is very important to me and actually a part of who I am."

Coming together and reminiscing has been a helpful and rewarding experience for the graduates.

"It's nice that there are five of us here as McDevitt graduates," Hartman explained, "being able to share common stories and bonds about football games or basketball games. I think it does make it an easier deployment having folks with you that have a shared experience."



Spc Manuel Williams and Sgt. 1st class William Jackson, of the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, watch down the road during an exercise at Camp Doha, Kuwait, on March 15, 2003. Photo by Army Spc. Tyler Long.

Picking up the Slack:

Austrians Patrol MNB(E)

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

KAMENICA MUNICIPALITY, Kosovo — Austrian peacekeepers helped to maintain a safe and secure environment in the former Russian patrolled sector of Multi-National Brigade (East) Aug. 21 as part of their commitment to Task Force Falcon.

The soldiers of the Austrian army's 2nd Company patrolled an area including the towns of Kololec, Kamenica, Kopernica, Koretin, and Mahala Memovic. They conducted mounted and dismounted patrols and set up temporary vehicle check points.

"We want to protect the people."

Pfc. Michael Foeger

"We want to protect the people," said Austrian Infantryman Pfc. Michael Foeger.

The soldiers remained in six-wheeled armored personnel carriers they call "Pandurs" while making their presence known to the village of Mahala Memovic and the town of Kamenica. The peacekeepers also dismounted their Pandurs to patrol Koprivnica and Koretin.

The soldiers walked the length of Kopernica where many of the local citizens spoke German. Because of this, the Austrians were able to speak with some of Kosovo's friendly citizens.



Goats slow the movement of Austrian soldiers on patrol through the narrow streets of Kopernica Aug. 21.



A squad of Austrian infantrymen climb a stream embankment near Kamenica Aug. 21 in a Pandur. The Pandur, an armored personnel carrier, is too heavy for a small bridge that crosses the stream a short distance away.

Pfc. Michael Foeger (far right) provides security while fellow Austrian infantryman Pfc. Thomas Clarke searches a passenger for weapons at a temporary check point south-east of Kopernica Aug. 21.



One such person was Ramush Ajuazi. Ajuazi runs a tiny store in Kopernica. The shopkeeper offered the Austrian soldiers a cold soda to drink while he briefly chatted with them. It is through encounters like this that the Austrians were able to gain information about the concerns of the local residents.

“The Austrians are very respectful, like the Americans, they wave as they pass by.”

Ramush Ajuazi



Austrian Infantryman, Pfc. Michael Geiger controls traffic at a temporary vehicle check point near Kopernica Aug. 21.

“The Austrians are very respectful, like the Americans, they wave as they pass by,” exclaimed Ajuazi.

The two squads continued through the town building rapport with the townspeople, apparent by the smiling faces of adults and children alike.

The soldiers laughed and smiled as they paused to take a picture with the group of children, which had followed them out of the village.

The men of 2nd Co. then climbed back into their vehicles and continued their mission. After patrolling all of their assigned towns, they conducted a temporary checkpoint to search vehicles for weapons.

They searched a taxi whose driver said the more KFOR conducts searches the safer the people are.

These troops have conducted patrols such as this, with helicopters, and participated in joint training exercises with U.S. explosive ordnance disposal and medical personnel.

Over the past month, while stationed at Camp Monteith, the soldiers of 2nd Co. have proven themselves to be excellent ambassadors of both peace and Austria. Both the U.S. soldiers they served with, and the citizens of Kosovo, whom they have spent the month protecting, will long remember them.

Vehicle Safety



Spc. Dale Sachs, a Military Police officer with the 1137th MP Company, monitors vehicle speeds on Camp Bondsteel Aug. 2. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.

MNB(E) Vehicle Speed Limitations

Motor vehicle accidents can be greatly reduced by operating within the speed limit. The following guidelines establish maximum vehicle speed for vehicles operating on roads off military camps on Main Supply Routes, secondary roads, and dirt roads. These limits apply to all Multi-National Brigade (East) vehicles in the following categories:

- a. U.S. Military Forces
- b. Foreign Military Forces
- c. All Civilians assigned to or employed by MNB(E)
(those issued a KFOR badge)
- d. All contractors that operate vehicles belonging to or assigned to MNB(E).

The following is the maximum speed limits for ALL vehicles operating outside of military camps:

- Main Supply Routes (MSRs)** - 40 mph or 70 kph
- Secondary Hard Roads** - 25 mph or 40 kph
- Unimproved (dirt) Roads** - 15 mph or 25 kph

Commanders must ensure all vehicle operators are briefed on the speed limitations and a copy of this standard operating procedure is maintained in the vehicle. The senior occupant must be aware of their duties and responsibilities to ensure safe operation of the vehicle and that speed limits are followed.

Local commanders may set lower speed limits based on risk assessments due to weather conditions, road maintenance, vehicle configuration, and other pertinent reasons. Drivers and senior occupants will constantly assess road and driving conditions and adjust their speed accordingly to maintain safe operation of the vehicle.

At all times, drivers will observe host nation signs that reduce speed below the above limits.

For more information on speed limits and vehicle safety, refer to USAREUR regulations 385-55 and 55-1.

Article information extracted from Annex E (T ACSOP Safety Revision) to FRAGO #189 (Daily Operations), APPENDIX H MNB(E) Vehicle Speed Limitations.

Soul Food:

Chapel Services and Times

Camp Bondsteel North

Sunday

0800 Liturgical Protestant
0930 Roman Catholic Mass
1100 Contemp. Protestant
1400 Gospel

Tuesday

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday

1900 Bible Study
2030 Gospel Choir Practice

Thursday

1900 Roman Catholic Mass

Friday

1900 Prayer and Bible Studies

Saturday

1200 Praise Team Practice
1900 Gospel choir

Camp Bondsteel South

Sunday

0800 Roman Catholic Mass
0930 Non-denominational Christian
1300 Latter Day Saints
1930 Non-denominational Christian

Monday

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday

1930 Roman Catholic Mass

Camp Monteith

Sunday

0900 Bible Study
1000 Collective Protestant
1200 Latter Day Saints
1700 Contemporary Praise and Worship
1900 Roman Catholic Mass

Tuesday

1900 "Building a Relationship Foundation" study

Friday

1300 Muslim Service
(Chapel Annex)

A message from the Chaplain

By Chaplain (Capt.) Scot McCosh

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youth grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:28-31

On Aug. 14 nearly three hundred US KFOR soldiers journeyed to the Kosovo village of Letnica. It was in this small village that a young, Albanian woman, named Agnes Corixha Bojaxhiu received her calling to ministry. You know Agnes as Mother Teresa. Thousands come each year, to walk the path that she walked, to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption and to see the statue of the Black Madonna. Being in the region, we had the joy of taking part in the celebration.

We started our day with a 5 KM hike/pilgrimage over the Kosovo hillside and into the small village. Specialists walked with Colonels. Infantry hiked with Finance. Catholics journeyed with Protestants and everyone in between. Each group of soldiers went at a different pace and some of us even chose to blaze a new trail. Along the way soldiers splashed their boots in creeks, slipped on rocky slopes and stopped to catch their breath while ascending steep trails. We were all soaked with sweat in the 90+-degree heat. It was a mysterious journey, for few of us knew what to expect on the other side.

When we reached the hilltop, we were greeted with the majestic view of a mountain village that would compare with the scenes of "The Sound of Music." It was on this hilltop that we caught our breath, drank some refreshing water, laughed, smiled and took some photos. We had made it to the top.

From the hilltop, we joined nearly 1,200 other soldiers from over eight countries and processed into the village for the mass. What a powerful scene to follow the cross, the national flags and the multi-national group of soldiers as they mixed in with thousands of locals. At the church, and in the orchard alongside, we worshipped together in many languages and then headed back toward our home away from home.

So what, you may be asking? What's the big deal about going for a hike and listening to a church service in a foreign language? Not much, unless you see that this rugged journey closely parallels the rugged path that each of us is on during this deployment. The hike was, for many, a pilgrimage; a journey that mirrors our lives: Creeks to cross, hills to climb, rocks on which to trip and fall. Yet, along the way there were friendly voices of encouragement, laughter and helping hands reaching out. Our adventure reminded us that although we may struggle and even trip and fall, that we can, with the help of God and



Camp Monteith Chaplain Scot McCosh cleans up after Sunday services. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

one another, rise to new heights.

Together, we made it to the top of the hillside, and together we worshipped. French, American, German, Irish, Slovenian, Austrian, Spanish, Georgian, Roma, Albanian, Serbian...in a land divided we were united by the common desire to walk the path and worship in a place where God had met so many others before us.

The pilgrimage, worship and festival in Letnica are long over. However, our personal pilgrimages are not. There are still creeks to cross, hills to climb, and rocks to step over. There are long days, lonely nights, crying kids, sneaky smugglers, missed birthdays, cold winters, delayed phone calls and frustrating co-workers, just to name a few challenges. We will all grow tired. We will all stumble. Yet, God promises that even then, He will be there. We can make it on this pilgrimage we call deployment. Keep pressing on, wait on God's strength and then enjoy the view from the hilltop. God will renew your strength, and will let you soar!

California Soldier Again Goes Above and Beyond

By Rone Tempest
Los Angeles Times, Sept. 2, 2003

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — You might think Raymond Anthony had already done enough for his country. During four tours in Vietnam with the Marine Corps, Anthony was wounded six times.

He bears a long bayonet scar on his face. He was shot in the chest with an enemy AK-47, strafed by jets and blown out of a landing craft by North Vietnamese artillery.

But the 57-year-old state office worker, who joined a California National Guard unit here eight years ago so he could qualify for military retirement pay, was severely wounded again in July when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee during a night patrol outside Baghdad.

Unlike many of his colleagues in the National Guard, Raymond Anthony is well-versed in combat. He faced countless battles in his four Vietnam tours. Drawing on his deep Christian faith, he was almost never afraid, he said, except during one amphibious assault south of the demilitarized zone in which he was wounded and bleeding in shark-infested waters.

"I couldn't get out of that water fast enough," Anthony recalled.

But when Anthony joined the National Guard to qualify for retirement pay after 20 years of service, he never expected, he said, to be under fire again, especially at such an advanced age.

Anthony, a square-jawed, former Marine drill inspector, was wounded on July 5 near the Baghdad airport. His son, Gary, 28, a Verizon Cellular employee, was serving in the same 270th Military Police Company and provided cover for his wounded father as he lay beside an Iraqi road.

When his team came under attack, Anthony said, he had little time to react after the rocket-propelled grenade hit about a yard in front of the vehicle's bulletproof windshield. More than 100 shrapnel fragments riddled his body, puncturing him from his neck to his feet. Anthony's Humvee was in flames, its tires burned off the wheels.

"I was astonished I was still alive. I thought, 'Thank you, Lord' and then, 'Dammit, not again,' " Anthony said. "My son called the medic."

Sometime soon, Anthony, who is back in California recovering from his wounds, will receive his seventh Purple Heart.

Smelling Cut Grass What a Gas

By Kathy Wollard
Newsday Regular Contributor, Sept. 2, 2003

Why does grass have a strong smell only when it's cut? asks Kimberly Belkin, a student in Smithtown.

Do you like running barefoot through fresh-cut grass? Like the smell even better?

According to "favorite smell" surveys, along with scents like baking bread, laundry dried on a clothesline in the sun, just-ground coffee and summer rain, cut grass is near the top of most people's lists.

It's a good thing most of us are so fond of the fragrance, because so-called turf grass is everywhere. All the lawns, golf courses, parks, playing fields and other green expanses in the United States add up to an astonishing 30 million acres of grass, just waiting to be mowed.

In fact, Americans buy nearly 600 million gallons of gasoline every year just to power their lawn mowers. They also saturate their thirsty lawns with nearly 300 billion gallons of water.

Left to its own devices, grass will grow only so tall and then go to seed, developing a spray of seedpods at the end of each long green blade. But most people never let their lawns reach the gone-to-seed phase, mowing them at least once a week and creating neatly trimmed outdoor green carpets.

It's the mowing, of course, that creates the cut-grass scent. Untouched blades of grass hardly smell at all up close. But cutting (or tearing) them releases the heady fragrance we associate with high summer.

According to botanists (plant scientists), the smell of cut grass is caused by gases emitted from each injured blade. Chopped grass releases a long list of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including methane (swamp gas), acetone (as in nail-polish remover), ethanol (grain alcohol) and acetaldehyde, a chemical similar to the toxic preservative formaldehyde.

Plants produce the volatile compounds within seconds of being cut. Some also produce the chemicals when they are damaged by frost. Botanists are still studying why wounded plants give off a burst of VOCs. One reason, they suspect, is that the chemicals have an antimicrobial action, protecting the cut part from invasion by microbes already teeming on the leaf surface.

Some scientists suggest thinking of cut grass as a kind of chemical polluter. Volatile organic compounds from wounded grass react with nitrogen oxides in the air, helping to form more ozone near the ground (where we don't want it). And grass sheared off and left drying on the lawn releases even more VOCs - up to 10 times as much as the cut grass still rooted in the ground. So mowing the nation's lawns may be a significant source of air pollution, scientists say - even trumping the pollution belched out by gas-powered mowers.

Still, most scientists say there's no reason not to enjoy the cut-grass smell on a summer day. When we bite and chew raw vegetables, they point out, the veggies release their own small burst of compounds - just as grass, clover and other plants do when a hungry horse tears off a tasty mouthful.

Soldier on the Street

If you could change one thing about camp, what would it be?



Scott Sears

Rank: Sgt. 1st Class
Unit: Charlie Co. 1-110th Infantry Battalion
Job: Platoon Sergeant
Hometown: Greensburg, Pa.
Quote: "I would like to see shopping out in the sector and be able to call home from my room."



Daniel Velez

Rank: Pfc.
Unit: 628th Finance Battalion
Job: Military Pay Specialist
Hometown: Lebanon, Pa.
Quote: "A positive change is when I try to be positive and an encouragement to whoever I find."



Luis Torres

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: HHC, 56th Brigade
Job: Billeting NCO
Hometown: Rockledge, Pa.
Quote: "Give more tools (and more people) to MWR so they can provide more and better activities for soldiers. Events should be repeated for those who have to work on different shifts."



Jason Rolm

Rank: Spc.
Unit: Charlie Co. 1-110th Infantry Battalion
Job: Infantryman
Hometown: Wind Ridge, Pa.
Quote: "I would like to see a two a day beer ration."



Tony Gairnese

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: Task Force Med Falcon
Job: Pharmacy Specialist
Hometown: Santa Cruz, Calif.
Quote: "Fly my wife here."



Chris Marley

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: Joint Visitors Bureau
Job: Operations NCO
Hometown: Elizabethtown, Pa.
Quote: "Make the PX more suited to what soldiers want and need."



Scenes of Kosovo

A mother white stork and her three chicks enjoy a morning near
Gjilane, Kosovo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.